



Implementing Environmental Site Design (ESD) to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP)

June 5, 2010



ESD to the MEP

The Maryland Stormwater Management Act of 2007 and the NPDES MS4 permit require Montgomery County to implement Environmental Site Design (ESD) to the Maximum Extent Practicable (MEP).

What is ESD?

Environmental Site Design (ESD) is a strategy to slow, absorb, and filter stormwater at its source using plants and improved soil mixes. Draining stormwater from hard surfaces directly into pipes, gutters, and storm sewers can negatively impact our streams. ESD manages stormwater at its source and is a better choice for Montgomery County streams.

Some of the benefits of ESD include:

- Filtering pollutants out of stormwater
- Protecting streams and local waterways
- Preventing flooding
- Conserving natural features
- Providing habitat
- Restoring groundwater
- Reducing hard surfaces and urban heat-island effect

Montgomery County Code Review

The County Code was reviewed to identify barriers, gaps, and opportunities related to ESD implementation.

- Barriers impede the use of ESD. Currently, conflicts arise when specific planning or design requirements in the Code contradict ESD requirements.
- Gaps are less obvious. Due to a lack of detail in the Code, certain code sections can appear to be subject to interpretation. Unfortunately, this can impede the use of ESD in certain situations.
- Opportunities are sections that promote or have the potential to promote ESD. In some of these cases, expanded language that references ESD is recommended.





Montgomery County Public Meeting

June 5, 2010 10:00am - 12:00pm
Rockville Library, First Floor Meeting Room



Purpose

- Learn about Montgomery County's stormwater permit
- Learn about environmental site design and how it addresses stormwater and protects natural resources
- Learn about the review of the Montgomery County Code and recommended changes to incorporate environmental site design
- Provide input on proposed code revisions and how to make it easier to use environmental site design
- Discuss next steps

Meeting Agenda

10:00-10:10 Introduction and Agenda Review

Objective: provide a clear road map for the meeting

Juliana E. Birkhoff, RESOLVE

10:10-10:30 Montgomery County's NPDES Permit and Environmental Site Design

Brief Presentation

Objective: provide background on stormwater impacts, make sure everyone is informed so they can participate

Meo Curtis, Montgomery County DEP

Nicole Stern, Biohabitats

Jennifer Zielinski, Biohabitats

10:30-10:40 Questions and Answers about Environmental Site Design

Facilitated Discussion

Objective: provide an opportunity for questions and general discussion on the County's permit and environmental site design

Juliana E. Birkhoff, RESOLVE

10:40-11:00 Identifying Potential Impediments to Environmental Site Design in County Code

Brief Presentation

Objective: introduce the Montgomery County Code review process, identified impediments to Environmental Site Design, and recommendations for change

Nicole Stern, Biohabitats

Jennifer Zielinski, Biohabitats

11:00-11:50 Open Discussion

Facilitated Discussion

Objective: provide an opportunity for questions and general discussion on recommended changes to the County Code and Development Approval Process

Juliana E. Birkhoff, RESOLVE

11:50-12:00 Summary and Next Steps

Objective: summarize discussions and next steps

Meo Curtis, Montgomery County DEP

Juliana E. Birkhoff, RESOLVE

12:00 Adjourn